

threats to their emerging democracy. Indeed, factional infighting between rival political groups has taken the lives of several thousand people since 1993.

The most recent outbreak of fighting poses yet another challenge to the people of the Republic of Congo and the liberty they desire for their country. Thankfully, a ceasefire was signed by the warring parties over the weekend of July 12-13, and representatives of President Lissouba and Sassou-Nguesso have been in Libreville, Gabon attempting to negotiate a peace agreement.

It is my sincere hope that negotiations are constructive and that the Republic of Congo is able to move forward and hold elections previously scheduled for July 27, but now delayed indefinitely.

We should make it clear to all parties involved in the conflict in the Republic of Congo that the United States condemns violent attempts to overthrow the democratically-elected government of the Republic of Congo. There is too much at stake in Central Africa right now for the United States to remain silent about instability which threatens the peaceful transfer of power in a country struggling to embrace democracy.

United States foreign policy in Central Africa has failed miserably in restraining the forces of violence which have plagued Rwanda and Burundi, the former Zaire, and now the Republic of Congo. The Clinton administration must address more forcefully the chain of events in Central Africa before the region spirals out of control. A good place to start would be to speak out forcefully in support of democracy in the Republic of Congo and against the violence which threatens the country's stability.

Mr. President, it is time to take a public stand in support of the fragile democracy in the Republic of Congo, which is why I am submitting this resolution today. I hope at the appropriate time my colleagues will vote to condemn the violence now threatening the prospects for constitutional government and the rule of law in the Republic of Congo.

SENATE RESOLUTION 113—CONGRATULATING THE PEOPLE OF JAMAICA

Mr. GRAHAM submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

Whereas on August 6, 1962, the people of Jamaica were granted their independence from Great Britain;

Whereas the people of Jamaica will celebrate their 35th anniversary of independence during a four-day "Emancipation Day" celebration from August 1 to August 4, 1997;

Whereas the people of Jamaica have practiced a representative democracy for 53 years since the establishment of internal self-governance in 1944;

Whereas under the Administration of Prime Ministers Michael Manley and P.J.

Patterson, Jamaica has played a leadership role in stimulating trade-based economic development, promoting democracy, fighting the illicit narcotics trade, and fostering the observance of human rights in the Caribbean region;

Whereas more than 2,000,000 Americans are of Jamaican descent, and Jamaican-Americans have made a rich contribution to our society;

Whereas Jamaica and the United States benefit from a healthy commercial relationship that, in 1996, exceeded \$2,300,000,000; and

Whereas Jamaica and the United States enjoy strong cultural and social links: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the people of Jamaica on the occasion of the 35th anniversary of Jamaica's independence from Great Britain;

(2) celebrates the strong, entrenched tradition of democratic governance in Jamaica;

(3) recognizes the richness of the contribution to United States of economic, political, social, and cultural life by Americans of Jamaican descent;

(4) commends the Government of Jamaica for its efforts to promote stability and economic growth in the Caribbean region; and

(5) looks forward to the continuance of strong relations and cooperation between the United States and Jamaica.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, it will be 35 years ago this coming Wednesday, August 6, 1997, that the people of Jamaica were granted their independence from Great Britain. This significant event for the people of Jamaica is cause for great celebration by the citizens of Jamaica as well as all of us who cherish democracy. The United States and Jamaica have been partners working together helping to bring democracy throughout the world. The government of Jamaica was the first of our allies joining our efforts to come to the aid of its neighbor Haiti. Jamaican American citizens contribute to the richness of our nation's cultural heritage. They strengthen the rich cultural and social ties between our nations.

It is therefore fitting that we take this opportunity to congratulate the people of Jamaica during their four day "Emancipation Day" celebration August 1, to August 4, 1997.

SENATE RESOLUTION 114—RELATIVE TO TAIWAN

Mr. TORRICELLI (for himself and Mr. BROWNBACK) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

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Whereas Hong Kong was acquired by the United Kingdom in 1898 and leased from China for 99 years;

Whereas the treaty through which the Hong Kong territory was leased from China expired on July 1, 1997, at which time Hong Kong reverted to China;

Whereas no treaties exist between the People's Republic of China and Taiwan which determine the future status of Taiwan, and, unlike Hong Kong, Taiwan has been de facto independent since 1949;

Whereas the People's Republic of China attempts to apply to Taiwan the formula commonly known as "one country, two systems" in an effort to annex Taiwan to China;

Whereas the People's Republic of China has refused to renounce the use of force against

Taiwan and held military exercises in the Taiwan Strait in March 1996 in an attempt to intimidate the people of Taiwan in their first presidential elections; and

Whereas the Taiwan Relations Act states that "[i]t is the policy of the United States to consider any effort to determine the future of Taiwan by other than peaceful means, including by boycotts or embargoes, a threat to the peace and security of the Western Pacific area and of grave concern to the United States": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the transfer of Hong Kong to the People's Republic of China does not alter the current and future status of Taiwan;

(2) the future of Taiwan should be determined by peaceful means through a democratic process in accordance with the principle of self-determination, as outlined in the Charter of the United Nations; and

(3) the United States should assist in the defense of Taiwan in case of threats or military attack by the People's Republic of China against Taiwan.

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I rise today to join with my colleague, Senator BROWNBACK, in submitting a Sense of Senate Resolution on the Current and Future Status of Taiwan.

This legislation expresses the sense of the Senate that the recent transfer of Hong Kong to the People's Republic of China does not alter the current or future status of Taiwan. The reversion of Hong Kong to China on July 1 has created the impression among some that the situations of Hong Kong and Taiwan are similar. Our resolution makes clear that there are deep differences between these two situations.

Hong Kong reverted to China after the expiration of a treaty signed by China and the United Kingdom in 1898 granting a 99 year lease.

No treaties exist which determine the future status of Taiwan, and Taiwan has maintained a de facto independence since 1949.

The formula of "one country, two systems" applied to Hong Kong has no relevance to Taiwan.

China continues to renounce the use of force against Taiwan and as recently as 1996 held military exercises in the Taiwan Strait in an attempt to intimidate the people of Taiwan.

The Taiwan Relations Act makes it the policy of the United States to "consider any effort to determine the future of Taiwan by other than peaceful means, including by boycotts or embargoes, a threat to the peace and security of the Western Pacific area and of grave concern to the United States."

Based on these differences, our resolution expresses the sense of the Senate that—

First, the transfer of Hong Kong to the People's Republic of China does not alter the current and future status of Taiwan;

Second, the future of Taiwan should be determined by peaceful means through a democratic process in accordance with the principle of self-determination, as outlined in the Charter of the United Nations; and

Third, the United States should assist in the defense of Taiwan in case of